

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, the appropriations bills we are talking about today should be about providing critical funds to keep our servicemembers safe, take care of our veterans, and support necessary defense programs. It should not be about helping President Trump keep a campaign promise that has no grounding in reality.

House Republicans' reckless decision to force the American people to pay for a wall that does nothing to increase our security or to solve real problems facing our immigration system is both wasteful and counterproductive.

This wall will cost American taxpayers \$1.6 billion. That is \$1.6 billion that could go toward helping veterans or getting our servicemembers the resources they need to stay safe while they risk their lives defending our country.

Rather than come to the table to work on meaningful bipartisan and long-term solutions to fix our broken immigration system, House Republicans would rather give American families' paychecks to President Trump so he can build this wall.

We are here to do the people's work. Building this wall doesn't do the people's work. It soothes the President's ego at the expense of American families.

I urge my colleague to oppose this bill if this dangerous and divisive policy rider is included.

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WE ARE DOING THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE AND KEEPING OUR PROMISES

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, all too often, the important work we are doing in the people's House does not get the attention it deserves.

So far this year, we have rolled back 14 overly burdensome regulations from the Obama administration, saving taxpayers billions of dollars in the process.

We passed landmark reforms that are now law to bring greater accountability and better care to the Veterans Administration.

Here in the House, we kept our promise to rescue families from the collapsing ObamaCare law.

We have taken action to rebuild our military, give our troops the biggest pay raise in 8 years, and expand the GI Bill to improve educational benefits.

We have enhanced border security and public safety by passing Kate's Law.

And we have passed measures to strengthen career and technical education, combat human trafficking, and reform the FDA to encourage medical innovation.

Madam Speaker, these policies, and many more that are languishing in the

Senate, will make a real difference in people's lives.

And we will keep working hard on the issues that matter, even if it doesn't always make the headlines.

ECONOMY NOT WORKING THE WAY IT SHOULD

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, the economy simply is not working the way it should. Millions of hardworking men and women across the heartland feel the American Dream has slipped out of reach.

In places like Galesburg, Hanover, and Freeport, Illinois, too many of the families I serve have seen their jobs boxed up and shipped to places like Mexico and China. To make ends meet, many of them have had to take on two or three minimum wage jobs.

That is not the American Dream that we believe in. We believe in an America where we never give up on the fight for better jobs, better wages, and a better future for all of our families.

This is why I was proud to help present the American public with our "Better Deal" economic agenda. Together, we will help 10 million hardworking Americans find good-paying, full-time jobs by making bold investments in our roads and bridges, and doubling our investments in workforce training and apprenticeships to connect workers with the skills that employers need.

And while wages will go up, costs will go down by reducing the price of prescription drugs and making childcare more affordable.

The American people are tired of excuses from Washington. They want real action, and we have a real plan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID COGDILL, SR.

(Mr. DENHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a cherished leader and great friend, former California State Senator Dave Cogdill, Sr. The beloved husband, father, and grandfather passed away at the age of 66 on Sunday, surrounded by his family.

Born on December 31, 1950, Dave spent most of his adult life in public service. That public service started when he enlisted in 1970 in the Air Force Reserve, serving in the Air National Guard, as well as on Active Duty.

In 1975, he was elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the Bridgeport Fire Protection District in Mono County. He moved to Modesto in 1979 and built his real estate appraisal business while serving on various boards and commissions in both the public and

private sectors. And he served two terms on the Modesto City Council. Dave went on to represent the 25th District in the California State Assembly for 6 years prior to being elected to the State senate in 2006. He served as the California State Senate Republican leader from 2008 to 2009, in addition to numerous committees, including Public Safety, the Revenue and Taxation, and the Joint Legislative Audit Committees.

A real estate appraiser by trade, Dave served as Stanislaus County assessor from 2011 to 2013, after which he joined the California Building Industry Association as CEO and president in October of 2013.

For his many years of an exemplary legislative career, Dave was awarded the prestigious Profile in Courage Award from the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation in 2010. That was just one of the many recognitions he received throughout his lifetime.

Dave and his wife, Stephanie, were married for 47 years. They have a son, David, Jr.; a daughter, Meghan Merrell; and three grandchildren, Connor, Katie, and Cooper.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing California State Senator Dave Cogdill for his unwavering leadership and friendship. He had a long history of service to California and to our community. He will be greatly missed.

HONORING SERGEANT JOE MURRAY

(Mr. LAWSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAWSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, last week, we all learned the tragic news that a military transport plane crashed into the Mississippi Delta. Sixteen marines, who courageously fought to defend our country, died from this unfortunate event.

One of those marines was Sergeant Joe Murray of Jacksonville, Florida. I would like to take this moment to express our deepest condolences to Sergeant Murray's family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sergeant Murray was a husband to Gayle Murray, and a father of four beautiful children—Isaac; Annabelle; and twins, Judah and Micah. He was known for being a family man who cared deeply for those around him.

Murray was a member of a special operations team and was promoted three times in the first 3 years he was in the Marine Corps and was deployed to Afghanistan twice.

The son of a Navy man, Sergeant Murray will always be remembered as a true American hero. I will continue to pray for him and his family and for every soldier out there protecting our great country.

May he rest in peace, and semper fi.